

Message Text

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41

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ARAE-00 PASS-00 AID-05 FDRE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07

IGA-02 MC-02 /063 W

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O 181900Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 350

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1342

DEPT PASS ROUTINE INFO TO USCINCSO SAN JOSE SAN SALVADOR MANAGUA
TEGUCIGALPA SECDEF AND JCS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, GT

SUBJ: FY 1977 MILITARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 036160

1. QUESTIONS IN PARA 4 REFTEL ARE NOT APPLICABLE TO GUATEMALA.

2. FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO PARA 5 REFTEL:

A. HOST COUNTRY WOULD MOST LIKELY ACCEPT. HOWEVER, BECAUSE
OF THE EARTHQUAKE DISASTER IT MAY DECIDE TO DEFER ALL
MILITARY EQUIPMENT PURCHASES TO FUND RECONSTRUCTION; OR
HOST MAY ELECT TO USE FUNDS TO REPLACE HEAVY EQUIPMENT IN
THEIR ARMY ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION BATTALION.

B. ORIGINAL ITEMS PROGRAMMED WERE PATROL BOATS AND
RECONDITIONING OF C-47 AIRCRAFT AT A TOTAL COST OF \$1.1
MILLION. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF DISASTER THERE IS A STRONG
LIKELIHOOD THAT IF CREDIT FUNDS ARE ACCEPTED, ENGINEER
CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT WILL BE PURCHASED INSTEAD.

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PRIORITY 1. TRUCK, DUMP 5-TON; PRIORITY 2 TRACTOR WHEELED,

INDUSTRIAL, MEDIUM PRIORITY 3 TRUCK, DUMP 20-TON

C. AFFIRMATIVE

D. TO MAINTAIN ITS CURRENT FORCE STRUCTURE GOG WILL HAVE TO PURCHASE EXTENSIVE QUANTITIES OF REPLACEMENT ITEMS OVER THE NEXT 5-10 YEAR PERIOD. THIS PROGRAM HAS ALREADY BEGUN WITH THE PURCHASE AND REHABILITATION OF 200 MIMEX OFFERED M151A1 JEEPS TO REPLACE THE OBSOLETE CJ3 AND CJ5 MODELS. THE REQUEST FOR 15,000 M16 RIFLES WAS BASED ON REPLACING THE OLDER CALIBRE .30 WEAPONS SERIES. THIS REPLACEMENT PATTERN MUST ALSO BE FOLLOWED FOR ARTILLERY PIECES, ENGINEER EQUIPMENT, AND GROUND TACTICAL/ADMINISTRATIVE VEHICLES.

E. THERE IS NO GRANT MATERIEL PROGRAM FOR FY 77. THE GRANT TRAINING PROGRAM ONLY INDIRECTLY RELATES TO THE PROPOSED CREDIT PURCHASES IN THAT THE TRAINING MONIES ARE PROGRAMMED TO HELP MAINTAIN PROFESSIONALISM BY SENDING CANDIDATES TO ADVANCED AND COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF LEVEL COURSES AND TO HELP DEVELOP A STRONG LOGISTICALLY TRAINED CORPS FOR WHICH THERE ARE NO IN-COUNTRY SCHOOLS. THIS TYPE OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING DOES AFFECT THE PLANNING FOR, PROCUREMENT OF, AND EMPLOYMENT OF MILITARY HARDWARE. A LARGE PORTION OF THE GRANT TRAINING MONIES ARE ALSO SPENT ON PIKOT TRAINING.

F. GOG MAINTAINS A BASIC PRO-US POLICY AND PREFERS TO PURCHASE US EQUIPMENT. THE OFFER OF CREDIT DOES MUCH TO INDICATE THAT THE USG IS INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THE DEFENSE NEEDS OF GOG. GOG HAS INDICATED ON SEVERAL PAST OCCASIONS HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO BUY FROM THE US.

G. NO. GOG'S NORTHERN NEIGHBOR, MEXICO, CANNOT BE MATCHED IN STRENGTH. HER SOUTHERN NEIGHBORS, HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR, BOTH TRADITIONALLY MAINTAIN SOMEWHAT SMALLER ARMED FORCES AND ARE MAINTAINING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH GOG. THE ONLY EXCEPTION MAY BE BELIZE,
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WHICH BASICALLY HAS NO ARMED FORCES. HOWEVER, THE PURCHASES CONTEMPLATED BY GOG WILL NOT MATERIALLY CHANGE GOG'S ABILITY TO EFFECT OPERATIONS IN THAT COUNTRY.

H. PARTICULARLY SINCE THE EARTHQUAKE, GOG IS MORE LIKELY TO NEED CREDIT ASSISTANCE THAN BEFORE. IF GOG IS TO REPLACE OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT IN A TIMELY MANNER OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, CREDIT ASSISTANCE WILL SURELY BE REQUIRED.

I. NO. GUATEMALA HAS AN OUTSTANDING RECORD OF
MAINTAINING LOAN PAYMENT SCHEDULES, AND EVEN CONSIDERING
THE CRIPPLING QUAKE, GOG SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN
THEIR RECORD.

J. NONE KNOWN.

3. IN RESPONSE TO PARA 6 REFTTEL EMBASSY ASSESSMENT
MADE IN GUATEMALA 1697 APRIL 3, 1975, REMAINS VALID.
MELOY

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